



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Commission on Children



Facts about Connecticut's Prevention Law

A Connecticut prevention law enacted in 2006 encourages investment in proven, cost-effective prevention services that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. The law promotes prosperity and success for Connecticut's children and families, rather than just crisis management.

The law, known formally as An Act Concerning State Investment in Prevention (P.A. 06-179), takes the following steps to strengthen Connecticut's prevention investment:

- Reactivates the State Prevention Council's work and sharpens its prevention mission;
- Revives the Governor's biennial prevention budget and aligns it with child and family prevention goals already in Connecticut law;
- Requires the Governor to report on the state's progress toward meeting the goal that, by the year 2020, 10 percent of the budgets of state agencies serving children and families will be allocated for prevention services; and
- Directs these state agencies to report annually on the effectiveness of their prevention services and their efforts to improve child outcomes.

It pays to invest in the front end. Growing evidence reveals that prevention programs can be effective at reducing crime and other significant costs to society. According to new findings by the Community Results Center of the United Way of Connecticut:

- ❖ Every dollar invested in home visitation for high-risk families, if implemented in Connecticut using a nurse-family model, would produce \$6.12 in monetary benefits.
- ❖ Every dollar invested in high-quality preschool for low-income Connecticut children, if modeled after the High/Scope Perry Preschool program, would produce \$18.89 in monetary benefits.

The law also reflects a commitment to the importance of government accountability to the state's taxpayers. Connecticut citizens will have access to updated data and analysis on the state's investment in prevention. State agencies will have to spell out the effectiveness of their prevention programs, as well as their efforts to reduce disparities in child outcomes by race, income level and gender.

In 2001, Connecticut enacted the first state law in the nation to require a statewide comprehensive prevention plan and required the Governor to report on the state's prevention investment and planning (P.A. 01-121). In FY 2002, Connecticut spent only an estimated 2 to 3 percent of its budget on prevention programs serving children and their families. By expanding the state's prevention analysis and reporting at the state department level, the 2006 law takes the next step toward shifting taxpayer dollars from wasteful crisis spending to cost-effective prevention investment.

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